

On October 29, 1884, while living in North Dakota, Charles C. Allen was united in marriage to Nellie S. Crawford, who was born in Michigan, daughter of S. A. and Ellen J. Crawford, pioneers in the Dakotas, and to this union four children have been born, Charles C., Marguerite, Florence and Fred K., all of whom are living. The Allens have a very pleasant home in Ada and take a proper part in the general social activities of the city. They are members of the Congregational church and for a number of years Mr. Allen has been the chairman of the board of trustees of the local congregation of that church.

HANS LARSON.

Hans Larson, a well-known and prosperous farmer of McDonaldsville township, Norman county, owner of two hundred and seventy-four acres of prime land and former member of the township and school board, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, but has been living in this country since he was twelve years old, having come with his parents to America in 1863. He was born near Dramen, Norway, in 1851, a son of Lars and Maria (Helgeson) Knutson, also natives of the same country.

Lars Knutson, father of Hans Larson, was educated in the schools of his native land, there grew up and was married, following farming up to the time he immigrated to America in 1863. On his arrival in this country he proceeded on out to Iowa and located near Decorah, Winneshiek county. Later he acquired a parcel of land in Lincoln township, that state, and farmed there for the remainder of his life. Lars Knutson and wife were the parents of the following children: Serena, deceased; Christina, deceased; Knut, deceased; Hans, the subject of this sketch; Marin, deceased, and Larvis, still living on the old home farm in Iowa. The parents were members of the Lutheran church and their family were reared in the same faith.

Hans Larson was educated in the schools of Norway and in 1863 he accompanied his parents to the United States and worked on his father's farm in Iowa, a valuable assistant in the labors of the improving and cultivating the land. When he was twenty-eight years old, in June, 1880, he moved to Ada, this county, the journey being made by horse team and occupied two weeks. He lived in Ada for two years, where he ran a feed barn. He then started farming on his own account and bought land in

Hegne township, this county, where he had a quarter section of excellent land, which he set out to general farming and continued at the same for ten years. At the end of the latter period he moved to his present place in McDonaldsville township, buying a tract of land, and he has continued to reside here ever since, being generally regarded as one of the substantial farmers of the community. His holding contains two hundred and seventy-four acres of prime land, on which he is actively engaged in the production of general crops, conducting his agricultural operations according to modern methods. Mr. Larson has effected many valuable improvements on his property and has erected some fine farm buildings. In addition to his farming operations he also has had for many years an excellent strain of Shorthorn cattle.

In July, 1876, Hans Larson was united in marriage to Helena Peterson, who was born near Christiania, Norway, and came to this country at the age of two years with her parents. The marriage took place in Iowa. They are the parents of the following children: Leonard, Peter, Henry, Maria, Christian, Emma, Selmar and Ella, all of whom are living. The Larson family are members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Larson and his brother, Knut, were active in organizing the first Lutheran church at Ada. Hans Larson has ever given a good citizen's attention to public affairs and served in many township offices. He served on the township board in both Hegne and McDonaldsville townships and on the school board when living in Hegne township, and he is recognized as one of the progressive men of the community in which he lives.

PETER SHEETS, JR.

Peter Sheets, a well-known extensive landowner in Norman county, owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of land, is a native of the state of Ohio, born in Delaware county, that state, August 17, 1862, a son of Peter and Mary Ann (Russell) Sheets, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. They moved to the state of Illinois and there Peter Sheets died and his wife died in Iowa. He operated a flour-mill in Ohio for some years. Ancestors of Peter Sheets fought in the War of the Revolution and were of German descent, while Peter Sheets' wife, Mary Ann Russell, was of English descent, and the ancestors on both sides were early settlers in